THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE FACING MAY BE JUST SHOWING OUR REASON FOR EXISTENCE.
β—9
IT'S A SIMPLE AND SINCERE MESSAGE.
AT THE VERY LEAST, WE WON'T FORGET ABOUT FUJIWARA-KUN OR KUYOH-SAN.
SO WHAT'S YOUR REASON FOR EXISTING?
SASAKI ...

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO UP AND ASK? HEH.
OBVIOUSLY IT'S TO PASS ON MY GENES, OF COURSE.
OR WERE YOU HOPING FOR A LESS EVOLUTIONARY ANSWER?
QUESTIONS LIKE WHY ARE WE BORN, WHY DO WE LIVE...
...THESE ARE NO MORE THAN ZEN RIDDLES.
GIVEN THAT, MY ANSWER WOULD BE...
"TO THINK."
AND...
"TO GO ON THINKING."

IF YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE BEHIND SOMETHING THAT WILL ENDURE IN THIS WORLD ...
... OTHER THAN YOUR GENES ...
THAT'S AN EXCELLENT QUESTION, KYON.
AND WHAT'S AT THE END OF ALL THAT THINKING?
TO STOP THINKING IS THE SAME AS DYING.

GREAT WORKS OF CULTURAL ART...
ENTIRELY NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SCIENCES ...
...TO EPOCH-MAKING TOOLS...
FROM HUGE, FUTILE MONUMENTS...
SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HISTORY, WE HUMANS HAVE LEFT BEHIND ALL KINDS OF THINGS.

I WANT TO CREATE SOMETHING, RAISE IT UP, AND LEAVE IT TO ENDURE.
SOME-THING BESIDES MY OWN DNA.
AND WITHOUT ANY HELP FROM ALIENS OR TIME TRAVELERS.
MY THOUGHTS ARE MINE ALONE.
AND I DON'T WANT ANY INTER-FERENCE.
FU FU
ALTHOUGH, I DO FEEL LIKE...
...I COULD BECOME GOOD FRIENDS WITH TACHIBANA-SAN.
TO (TMP)
I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE NEVER HEARD SASAKI SPEAK SO PASSION-ATELY ABOUT SOME-THING.
OR SO HON-ESTLY.

FU FU FU ...
C'MON, KYON, NOT YOU TOO.
I DOUBT I COULD HANDLE IT.
SASAKI.
IF YOU HAD POWER LIKE HARUHI HAS...
...YOU COULD MAKE ALL OF THIS COME TRUE.
I MEAN, HER VERY BEING IS BASICALLY A MIRACLE...
IT'S A MIRACLE SHE'S ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE IN THE WORLD.
I COULD NEVER BE LIKE SUZUMIYA-SAN.
SHA (FWISH)
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE POWERLESS.
THEN THERE'S YOU, OBJECT OF THE AFFINITY OF TWO DEMIGODS, HER AND ME.
SHU (SHF)
AND APPARENTLY PEOPLE THINK THE SAME OF ME TOO.
SUZUMIYA-SAN IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOMETHING LIKE A GOD.

THAT'S RIGHT...
IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE DONE, YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
YOU'LL PULL BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE NEW STAGE.
SO HAVE A LITTLE SELF-CONFIDENCE, EH, KYON?
YOU WILL END UP RESOLVING THIS MATTER.
YOU HAVE ALL THE MASTER KEYS.

WELL, I SHOULD BE GOING.
BYE BYE!
YEAH, SEE YOU.
TO, (TMP)
トン
TO
トトトト

I'M GLAD I GOT TO SEE YOU AND TALK ABOUT THINGS, KYON.
IT'S HELPED ME MAKE UP MY MIND.
YOU'RE MY ONE AND ONLY DEAR FRIEND.
MIGHT AS WELL DO IT.
TO GET NAGATO BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF.
EVEN AS MY RESOLVE BURNED HOT, THERE WAS A COOLER, MORE LOGICAL VERSION OF ME THERE TOO.
AND HE ASKED THIS:

WASN'T THERE SOMEONE BESIDES ME WHO COULD TAKE UP THE ROLE OF THE TRANSCENDENT HERO?
IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN— HAD TO BE— HER.
...OR SOME-THING.
PAA (BEAM)
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS, SENPAI!
AS OF TODAY, I'M A MEMBER OF THE SOS BRIGADE!
I'M SO EXCITED TO BE HERE!
α—10

I'M SURE YOU ALL KNOW, BUT I'LL INTRO-DUCE HER AGAIN.
YASUMI WATAHASHI-CHAN...
...HAVING PASSED A SERIES OF FAIR AND PUBLIC TESTS, IS OUR NEWEST MEMBER!
SHE NEEDS TO BE DRILLED GOOD AND HARD ON ALL THE KNOW-HOW SHE'LL NEED...
...OVER THE COMING YEAR!
BISHI (SNAP)
I'LL DO MY BEST!!

CLEANING!? LEAVE IT TO ME!
BUWAA (VOOOM)
GOTCHA!
CAN'T REACH...
DESPITE MY LIMITED ABILITY, I HOPE YOU'LL SEE FIT TO INSTRUCT ME IN YOUR WAYS!!
TEA, IS IT!?
THIS IS SUZUMIYA-SAN'S CUP...
EEK. I WANNA WEAR A MAID OUTFIT!!
COMING RIGHT UP!
BAAN (ZOOM)
PLEASE, TRY IT!!
!?
PAA (BEAM)
GU (GULP)
LET'S SEE HERE ...
IT'S CALLED ROOI-BOS TEA!

HERE'S YOUR TEA!
YAAY!
I KNOW, RIGHT!!?
YEAH!
TASTES LIKE IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!
WHAT A CURIOUS FLAVOR.
PYOKO (HOP)
GU (SQUEEZE)
What!!?
Would you have preferred a guy?
...more cheerful, somehow.
With another female member, it's...
!?
Our right to free speech was endangered enough already...
WAI
It's sad but true.
(CHATTER)
It's about balance.
Don't you think we're at a bit of a disadvantage with only two boys but four girls?

I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT! LEMME AT IT!
THIS IS THE WEB-SITE KYON MADE FOR THE SOS BRIGADE.
THINK YOU COULD MAKE IT A LITTLE FLASHIER?
WELL, A LITTLE ...
YES!
BY THE WAY, YASUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU GOOD WITH COMPU-TERS?
MORE WEIRDLY, MORE LIKE.
NO DOUBT THINGS WILL GO MORE SMOOTHLY WITH ONLY GIRLS.
SEEMS LIKE ABOUT THE RIGHT TIME.
I THINK I'LL GO PLAY CATCH WITH KOIZUMI.
YASUMI WATAHASHI, I WON'T FORGET YOUR NAME!
HEY, SHE JUST TOLD YOU WHO MADE THAT SITE!
WHOA, USELESS TAGS EVERY-WHERE!
BUT, WAIT— WITH THESE APPS, YOU COULD'VE DONE A WAY BETTER JOB...
WOW, A TEXT-ONLY SITE! OLD-SCHOOL!

IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO INVITE ME ALONG TO ANYTHING.
TO SUGGEST A GAME OF CATCH.
HUH?
KO (TAP)
KO
KO
QUICK THINKING THERE.
WHAT DO I KNOW?
I JUST GOT THE FEELING IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.
GEEZ, KYON'S TOTALLY WORTHLESS
TAKE HIM AS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT NOT TO DO!
WHAT COULD IT BE, I WONDER.
I WONDER IF THAT'S WHAT A TIME TRAVELER WOULD CALL A FIXED EVENT.
I FELT A STRANGE COMPULSION TO DO SO, IN FACT.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE. SO DID I.

ZA
ZA (STEP)
AND IT'S MORE LIKELY THAT WE'RE SIMPLY BEING SUSPICIOUS.
NO, I DOUBT SHE KNOWS ANYTHING.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK ASAHINA-SAN?
IF WE START DOUBTING THINGS LIKE THIS, WE'LL JUST PLAY MORE AND MORE INTO THE TIME TRAVELERS' HANDS.
PAN (SMACK)
SHU (SHF)
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF PRIDE AS AN INHABITANT OF THE PRESENT.
THIS DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH BEING AN ESPER OR IN THE AGENCY.
AS A PAST-DWELLER, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE TO THE TIME TRAVELERS.

ZASHI (CRUNCH)
I DON'T MIND BEING LOOKED DOWN ON.
OUR OPPONENTS HAVE A GREATER ORGANIZATION THAN US, AND WITH MORE POWER.
ZASHI
IT'S WEIRD TO HEAR YOU SOUNDING SO SINCERE.
SHU
WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN BACKING YOU UP AND YOU BACKING HER UP...
THERE'S NOTHING THE TWO OF YOU COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH.
THAT PARTICULAR ROLE IS WELL-SUITED TO YOU.
GROSS, KNOCK IT OFF.
BUT PERSONALLY, I LOATHE THE IDEA OF RESIGNING MYSELF TO SUCH DISDAIN.
REBELLION AGAINST A GREATER POWER IS A CLASSIC TALE, NO MATTER THE PLACE OR ERA.
HYU (WHP)

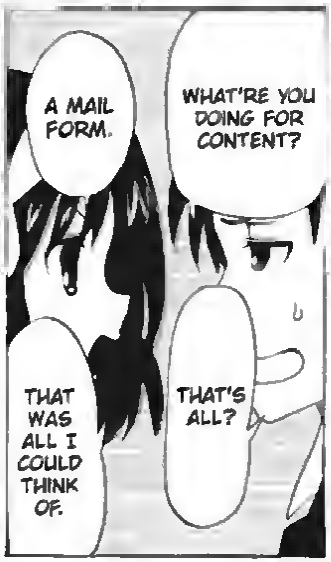
SO, IS YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL STUDY WITH SUZUMIYA-SAN PROGRESSING WELL?
HA HA ...
IT'S OKAY.
I GET THE FEELING SHE'S ONLY DOING IT BECAUSE SHE LIKES TEACHING.
SHU (SHF)
THAT'S GOOD.
JUST KEEP AT IT ALL THE WAY UNTIL COLLEGE ...
ENOUGH ALREADY!
I'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.
HIRARI (FLUTTER)
OH? SUCH AS?
KASA (RUSTLE)
OPEN
?

MIKURU
フォルダ発見!
PAPER: I FOUND THE MIKURU FOLDER!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
GU (CLENCH)
グッ!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT SEEMS YASUMI'S I.T. SKILLS ARE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

THIS BEAU-TIFUL, GOR-GEOUS PAGE!
BAN (BOOM)
-SOS-
Copyright(C)SOS-dan
All Rights Reserved
BEHOLD, KYON!

THIS IS IS MORE EYE-CATCHING AND ATTENTION-GRABBING.
-SOS-
Welcome to the SOS Brigade home page!
We will solve your problems. Consultation visits always welcome!
Copyright(C)SOS-dan
All Rights Reserved.
And of course we're always looking for new brigade members!
I FEEL LIKE IT'S GOING A LITTLE OVER-BOARD...
SO THIS IS THE SOS BRIGADE, HUH?

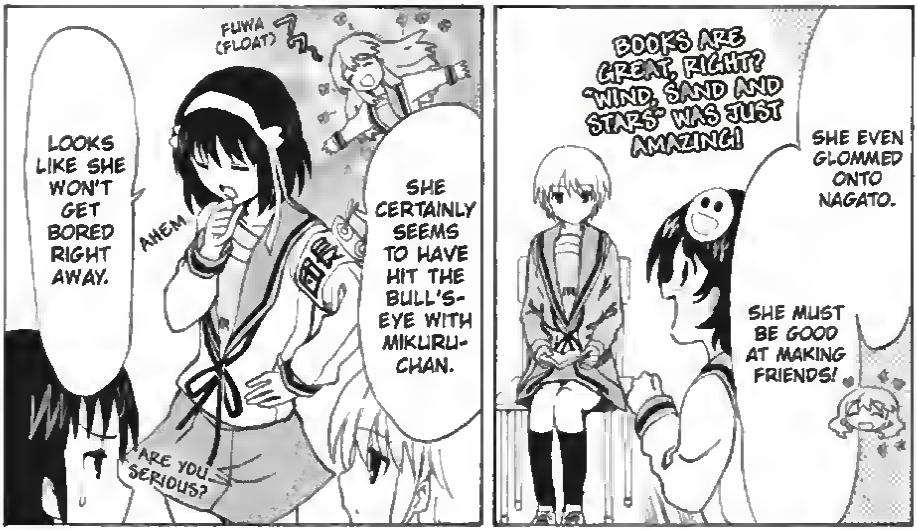
KACHI
KACHI
LOOK.
BUT THERE'S STUFF LIKE THIS TOO.


A MAIL FORM.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING FOR CONTENT?
THAT WAS ALL I COULD THINK OF.
THAT'S ALL?

JAAN (TADA)
KACHI (CLICK)
ANYWAY, WE MIGHT AS WELL USE ALL THE RE-SOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.
SO OBNOX-IOUS
THAT'S OBVIOUSLY JUST CLIP ART AND FREE MUSIC...
IF YOU CLICK HERE...

I'M IMPRESSED THEY'VE GONE ALL THE WAY TO VERSION FIVE...
IT MUST APPEAL TO THE PEOPLE THAT CARE ABOUT THIS KIND OF GAME.
I GOT IT FROM THE COMPUTER CLUB.
IT'S THE ONLINE VERSION OF THE GAME WE PLAYED BEFORE... FREE, OF COURSE!
KACHI
KACHI
DOUBLOON
The Days of Sagittarius
ver 5.0
THE DAYS OF SAGITTARIUS FIVE...
I WANT SOMETHING MORE, LIKE, ARCADE-Y!
WHEW...
I BET THEY THINK LOSING TO SOMEONE LIKE HARUHI IS THE WORST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THEM...
I WENT AHEAD AND ASKED THE COMPUTER CLUB TO DO MORE GAME DEVELOPMENT FOR US.
A MORE SOS BRIGADE-LIKE ONE, THIS TIME!

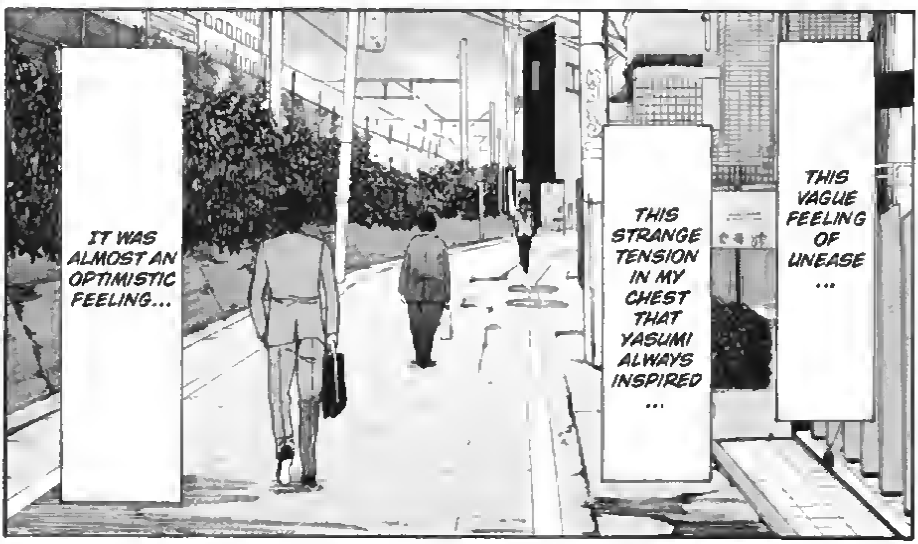
HEY, WHERE'D YASUMI GO?
SHE WENT HOME JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING SHE HAD TO DO.
SHE'S JUST SO CUUUTE!
PAAAA (GLOW)
KYA (SQUEAL)
KYA
HER VOICE, HER ATTITUDE, HER EXPRESSIONS-
SHE'S SO CUTE I JUST CAN'T STAND IT!
I DON'T REALLY SEE IT, BUT OKAY.


FUWA (FLOAT)
LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T GET BORED RIGHT AWAY.
AHEM
SHE CERTAINLY SEEMS TO HAVE HIT THE BULL'S-EYE WITH MIKURU-CHAN.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
BOOKS ARE GREAT, RIGHT? "WIND, SAND AND STARS" WAS JUST AMAZING!
SHE EVEN GLOMMED ONTO NAGATO.
SHE MUST BE GOOD AT MAKING FRIENDS!

YEAH, IT HAD A TITLE LIKE SOME KIND OF SATELLITE.
SHE ASKED ME TO.
I LENT HER A BOOK.

THE SOS BRIGADE MUST NOT NEGLECT THE EDUCATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION!
ばあん
BAAN (BOOM)
SQUEE!
ANYWAY, HAVING A NEW MEMBER JOIN US BODES WELL FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

I JUST CAN'T SEE IT.
THERE'S NO WAY THE SINGLE NEW MEMBER HARUHI CHOSE IS A NORMAL PERSON.
NONE OF THIS IS SITTING WELL WITH ME.


IT WAS ALMOST AN OPTIMISTIC FEELING...
THIS STRANGE TENSION IN MY CHEST THAT YASUMI ALWAYS INSPIRED ...
THIS VAGUE FEELING OF UNEASE ...

WELCOME HOME, SENPAI! SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
I'M HOME.
NO, SHE PROBABLY WASN'T ANYTHING SO OBVIOUS.
WAS SHE AN ENEMY OR AN ALLY?
WHEN YOU GOT RIGHT DOWN TO IT, YASUMI'S AURA...
GEH!
...WAS LIKE HARUHI'S OR SASAKI'S.
BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHY.
BAN (BAM)

DAA (BEAM)
I SHOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED!
I REALLY WANTED TO COME YESTERDAY...
...BUT THINGS TOOK LONGER THAN I EXPECTED ...
ZA (STEP)
WHA!? WHAT... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?
WELL, I MEAN ...
YOU LET HER IN!?
WHAT THE HECK!?
EXPECTED? HESITATED?
I THINK MY LITTLE SISTER MAY BE TOO NICE FOR HER OWN GOOD.
SHE'S SUCH A GOOD GIRL!
I WANT TO JUST PICK HER UP AND TAKE A NAP WITH HER!
I KNEW RIGHT AWAY SHE WAS YOUR LITTLE SISTER!
...SHE SAID SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND!

BA (WHIP)
YUP, I JUST WANTED TO COME BY AT LEAST ONCE.
TO YOUR HOUSE, I MEAN.
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO.
DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS...
I KNEW I WAS BEING PUSHY...
...BUT I'M GLAD I CAME!
I GOT TO MEET YOUR ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, AND THIS CAT!
EH HE HE HE
I CAN'T HAVE PETS ANYMORE, SO....
BUT I LOVE PLAYING WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PETS WHEN I VISIT!
GOOD BOY!
WHAT A LOVELY CALICO! HE SEEMS PRETTY SMART TOO. I'M IMPRESSED.

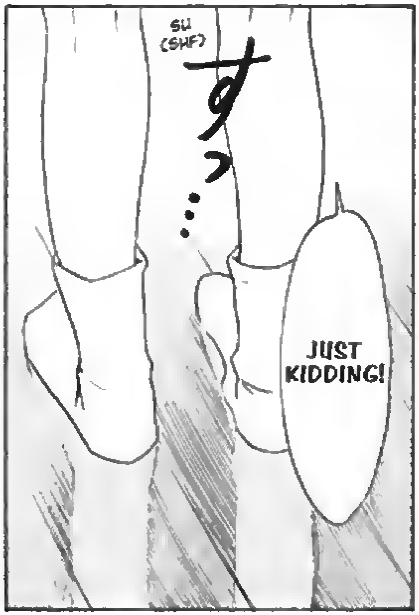
EH HE HE HE...
SORRY!
THIS IS A TREASURE I'VE HAD SINCE I WAS LITTLE, SO I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU RIGHT NOW.
HYOI (POP) ひょい
SO, WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
I REALLY LIKE THAT BARRETTE! CAN I HAVE IT?

SO I MIGHT WIND UP FLOATING BACK HERE SOMETIME.
OR MAYBE EVEN JUST THIS BARRETTE. EVENTUALLY, SOMEDAY...

BUT IT MIGHT COME AROUND TO YOU EVENTUALLY.
WE'RE ALL LITTLE BOATS FLOATING ON THE RIVER OF THE WORLD.

I ALWAYS DREAMED THAT WHEN I WENT TO A NEW SCHOOL...
...THERE'D BE SOME COOL CLUB...
AND SOME KIND OF COINCIDENCE WOULD SUCK ME INTO IT...
...AND I'D JOIN UP.
THAT I'D KEEP QUIET AND THEY'D APPROACH ME.
ISN'T THAT HOW IT IS?
THE NARRATORS OF EVERY GOOD STORY ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN.

AND THE CLUB WOULD BE FULL OF FASCI-NATING STUDENTS ...
...AND I'D WIND UP GETTING CLOSE TO ONE OF THEM...
THAT'S THE KIND OF PROTAGONIST I WANTED TO BE.


SU (SHF)
すっ...
JUST KIDDING!

YASUMI WATA-HASHI ...
ARE YOU...

SORRY FOR INTRUDING!
BUT I'M TOTALLY SATISFIED NOW.
I WON'T COME AGAIN.

ACTUALLY I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR ROOM.
SORRY!
SUPAAN (SHWAAP)

PAA (BEAM)
DON'T HATE ME...
... OKAY, SENPAI?

KYON-KUN...
...WHO WAS THAT?

BYE BYE BYE!
OKAY, MAY WE MEET AGAIN!

OR MADE IT UP MYSELF, SOMETIME IN THE PAST...
IT WAS LIKE I'D HEARD THIS STORY BEFORE SOMEWHERE...
—YOU MERELY REFER TO PREDETERMINED EVENTS THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND AS COINCIDENCE.
—EVERYTHING IS PRE-DETERMINED.
—NOTHING IN THIS WORLD IS COINCIDENCE.
MAYBE IT WAS A LINE FROM A BOOK I'D BORROWED FROM NAGATO.
NO...
WHO WAS IT WHO'D SAID THAT? KOIZUMI?

THE SURPRISE OF HARUHI SUZUMIYA VIII : END

The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya